

BORN	LOCAL LIQUOR LICENSES.
Holloway.—At Hurley on the 1st December, the wife of Mr. John A. Holloway, of a son.	
Clegg.—In action on the 1st February, the wife of Mr. John Clegg, of a daughter.	
DIED	
M. McFarlane.—In Hurley on the 1st January, Dougald Alexander, son of Mr. Donald McFarlane, formerly of Nassauway.	

### The Acton Free Press.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1889.

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Rev. C. N. Morow published the assertion that while convictions in Hurley for crime amounted during the last quarter of 1888 to 10, they amounted in the previous three years and nine months to only 8. The latter was a Scott Act period and the former a Crooks Act.

Mr. Collier, Reform candidate, was elected in Halton on Wednesday of last week defeating Dr. Monteague by 30 to a majority. The latter was elected last November by 21 but the election was voided. It has been a bitter fight extending over years and it is doubtful if the end is yet.

The Frontenac Co. Council last week by a vote of nineteen to four decided to petition the Dominion parliament to prohibit the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquor. The single council of the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, passed a resolution in favor of the prohibition of the manufacture and importation of intoxicating liquors in the Dominion.

The Dominion Inland Revenue returns, just issued, show that Canadians are drinking less spirituous liquors year by year. After reducing all spirituous and malt liquors and wines, domestic and foreign, to the basis of alcohol, the consumption per head of the population for the past decade does not exceed three-quarters of the quantity per head consumed throughout Europe.

Monday was an important settling day in commercial circles and consequently it is a fair gauge as to the condition of business. In view of the fact that the winter has been so mild as to leave winter goods on the shelves of the retailers, it was expected that notes due on Monday would not be fully taken up and the expectation was fully realized. The chief feature of "February settling days" was that the renewals of notes were many.

The following measures will be taken up at this session of the Ontario Legislature:—A few voters' list act, embodying with the present law so far as is applicable the provisions needed for carrying into full effect the legislation of last session in reference to manufactory of liquors; bills for increasing the efficiency of the Factory Act and the Workmen's compensation for Injuries Act; and for further improving the laws respecting land titles and the registration of deeds. The question of increasing sanitary accommodation will also be dealt with.

Can any one suggest any good reason why the Dominion House of Commons should not enact a law of total Prohibition? The time has long passed by, in which it could be pretended, with any appearance of sincerity, that the country is not "ripe" for such legislation—that the people are not sufficiently favored it. At every possible opportunity the electors are showing their readiness for the immediate, out-and-out suppression of the whole traffic in intoxicating beverages. The people want it. The Church wants it. The country wants it. Why should it not be done at once?

Carrie Gifford.

The county council deserves credit for deciding to petition the Ottawa Government to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor. While temperance workers are not one whit less earnest or active, it is an indisputable fact that the disappointing results of the working of the Scott Act have weakened the faith of the public in temperance legislation. That the county council should take action as it has, in the face of this loss of faith, is cheering evidence that many representative men throughout the county are looking for good results from a more comprehensive and thorough prohibitory measure than the Scott Act has been proved to be.—St. Thomas Journal.

The Revised Statutes of Ontario set forth the liability of innkeepers or persons in their employ who sell liquor to persons who become intoxicated. The substance of the clause is that if a saloon keeper furnishes intoxicating liquor of any kind to a person who on account of drinking of the same has "come to his death by suicide," or drowning or perishing from cold or other accident caused by such intoxication, "the keeper of such place shall be liable to the sum of \$100 or not more than \$1000." It is a matter of regret that an inquiry was not held on the behalf of the late John McAlpine, as the liquor that killed him was procured in town, and revelations might have been made that would have rendered it uncomfortable for the liquor vendor who sold the unfortunate man the fatal stuff.—Georgetown Herald.

AN ANCIENT DOCUMENT.

How School Teachers were Salaried for their Services Fifty Years ago.

The original of the following "Teacher's Agreement" has kindly been loaned to the Free Press by the family of the late John Newton, Limehouse. It refers to the old school at Glenlawson, 4 miles below Acton, and will no doubt be read with interest by many old settlers, some of whom were perhaps pupils under Mr. Newton's tuition.

This agreement, made at Exeter in the Gore District between John Newton and those whose names are herein written, witnesseth:

That the said John Newton, on his part, covenants and agrees to teach in the schoolroom, on lot #4, in the fourth concession of the Town of Exeter, according to the regulations of the Board of Commissioners for said township and in accordance with the Common School Act now in force in the Province of Ontario.

And you, the part contracting hereunto to send to school the number of scholars you propose to our hands, respectively; to furnish said John Newton bed and board and necessary tools for each scholar, proportionate to the number of scholars taught by each, with the exception that all shall have taught the said school as aforementioned, and the event of his wages from the public fund falling short of five dollars per quarter for each scholar. We further agree to pay him the sum of \$1000 for each scholar.

As a regular correspondent you will be much more appreciated. Accidents, robberies, fires, deaths, marriages, charities and cruelty are not the only neighborhood items worthy of being recorded. The close observer becomes the successful writer. There are many things, which, when properly recorded, are of deep interest, though the careless person scarcely notices them. He who can write neighborly happenings in plain, spicy style, without unnecessary words, has a beautiful accomplishment. He has the gift of pleasantly imparting his knowledge to others.

Witness our hands at Exeter, this 1st day of October, 1842.—

John Newton  
John Scott  
Donald McAlpine  
Thomas Dwyer  
Graham Lawson  
James McLean  
Walker  
Matheson

1 do.  
1 do.

School teachers are not well off that way in the present generation.

### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

A By-law regulating the number of hotels and the price for rooms, in this municipality will be introduced at the meeting of the Council next Monday evening, and its effect upon the attention of the members, the desirability, in fact the necessity, of restricting the number of licenses and increasing the license fees. Last year the Council at first restricted the licenses to two, but, under pressure from the license commissioners, subsequently rescinded the resolution and increased the number to three. This was by no means desired by our citizens. General regret was felt when the third license was granted, and the sequel has clearly amplified the fact that the more places there are for dispensing the cursed beverage which causes so much woe, sorrow and sin, the greater are the temptations to drink and the inevitable result is seen in increased drunkenness. Now, if the member is restricted by by-law this year to two we are satisfied the action of the Council will be looked upon with very general favor. It makes little difference which two houses are granted licenses for the proprietor of each is selling all the liquor he can, as so doubtless is a perfect right to do when the possession of a license and no blame can be attached to a business man, from a legal point of view, for conducting his business with enterprise—but two should be the limit of the number granted.

Then too, the license fees have been altogether too low, of late last year bringing in only a miserable pittance in revenue. Is it true the Council had no power in this respect last year, because the Scott Act was not voted on until the first of March, and according to the License Act, by-law bearing upon this point, must be passed prior to that date. This year, however, they have the master in their own hands, and it will be perfectly proper for them to put on a good healthy license fee. We notice that license fees have an upward tendency all over the province and run from \$200 to \$400. In view of the fact that licenses last year cost only \$75 there would be nothing whatever unreasonable in fixing them at \$200 at least for the present year.

The license system has been forced upon this municipality in opposition to the wishes of the people. It is well known that our taxpayers three have said, by their votes, that they desired no licenses for the sale of whiskey in Acton. The members of the Council must rest assured that when ever measures they may take will have a view to reducing the number of licenses and increasing the license fees will be favorably received by the best people of the town, and by a clear majority of the ratepayers.

#### OUR ASSESSMENT.

The Council will shortly arrange for the taking of the assessment of this municipality for the current year, and the manner of the basis to be adopted deserves some considerable attention before the assessment commences this fall. In his inaugural address the Mayor expressed the opinion that a charge should be effected and favor of the adoption of a cash value basis of assessment. For years the Free Press has endeavored to impress upon the people the desirability and advantages to be derived by the change proposed, and has frequently cited the experience of other municipalities which have greatly benefited by higher assessment.

The Council's decision will be referred to here with profit. A couple of years ago the village of Silverside whose assessment was similar to our present system, adopted the higher basis and by this action their rate of taxation was reduced from 22 mills to 10. Besides this the aggregate assessment of the municipalities of Acton's size enjoying similar public improvements and conveniences, is necessarily placed at a higher figure than can be properly justified by the circumstances.

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The address in reply to the speech from the Throne was moved in the Commons by Mr. Hob White of Cambridge and seconded by Mr. A. T. Lepine of Montreal, the two youngest members in the House. Neither of them said anything yesterday. Mr. White passed a general and appropriate censure on Sir Laurier's father.

Mr. Laurier's speech.

The Opposition leader's speech did not contain any electricity or much fighting matter. He evidently prefers to fight in detail as the question comes up by one.

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